

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
EB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-01 SP-02 OES-02
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FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3619
INFO ALL EC CAPTIALS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 4178

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC COMECON EEWT
SUBJECT: CEMA LETTER TO EC

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 3950, (B) 76 BRUSSELS 11316

1. EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL WHO DEALS WITH RELATIONS WITH
STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES (MASLEN) HAS BRIEFED US ON STATUS
OF EC REPLY TO THE APRIL 18 OLSZEWSKI LETTER (REFTEL A)
PROPOSING DIRECT EC/CEMA TALKS ON AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE TWO PARTIES. MASLEN CONFIRMED THE COMMISSION'S VIEW
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THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE EC TO TURN DOWN THIS
LATEST APPROACH, FOR TWO REASONS: (1) THE CEMA SIDE
CAN POINT TO THE PRECEDENT OF FISHING NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THEC AND THE USSR, THE GDR, AND POLAND; AND
(2) THE OLSZEWSKI LETTER CLEARLY LINES PROGRESS TOWARD SUCH
AN AGREEMENT WITH CSCE FINAL ACT IMPLEMENTATION, LEAVING
THE EC OPEN TO POSSIBLE CRITICISM AT THE JUNE 15 BELGRADE

MEETING IF IT DOES NOT RESPOND IN A FORTHCOMING MANNER.

2. MASLEN STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT, EVEN IF THE EC IS FORCED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT TALKS, IT IS IN NO WAY OBLIGED TO ACCEPT THE OLSZEWSKI LETTER SUGGESTION THAT SUCH TALKS BE CONDUCTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CEMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE EC COUNCIL. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EC'S NOVEMBER 1976 LETTER TO OLSZEWSKI (REFTEL B) CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD CONDUCT ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE EC, AND HE STATED FLATLY THAT THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE EC TO BUDGE FROM THAT POSITION. MASLEN STRESSED THAT NO PARALLEL COULD BE DRAWN BETWEEN TALKS ON AN EC/CEMA AGREEMENT AND THE CURRENT FISHING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND THE EAST EUROPEANS. IN THE LATTER CASE, THE EC HAS A REAL INTEREST IN TALKING, ESPECIALLY WITH THE SOVIETS; AND THE ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE EC COUNCIL PRESIDENCY HEADED THE EC DELEGATION (WITH COMMISSION PARTICIPATION) WAS NO MORE THAN AN AD HOC COMPROMISE TO INDUCE THE SOVIETS TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. HE ADDED THAT, SINCE THE EC HAS NO INTEREST IN CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT WITH CEMA, IT CAN AFFORD TO STICK FIRMLY TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE COMMISSION WILL CONDUCT ALL NEGOTIATIONS ON ITS BEHALF.

3. MASLEN CONFIRMED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL ONLY "TAKE NOTE" OF THE OLSZEWSKI LETTER DURING THEIR MAY 3 COUNCIL MEETING, POSTPONING A DECISION ON A REPLY UNTIL THEIR MAY 31 MEETING.

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4. MASLEN THEN BRIEFED MISSION OFFICER ON A CONVERSATION BETWEEN COMMISSION OFFICIAL LOUIS KAWAN AND A SOVIET OFFICIAL IN GENEVA LAST WEEK. KAWAN WAS TOLD THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN TAKING UP THE EC'S NOVEMBER 1974 OFFER OF A STANDARD FRAMEWORK TRADE AGREEMENT FOR TWO REASONS: (1) THEY HAVE NO OUTSTANDING TRADE

PROBLEMS WITH THE EC MEMBER STATES; AND (2) THEIR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE EC MEMBER STATES ALREADY PROVIDE AN "EXCELLENT BASIS FOR RELATIONS". KAWAN WAS FURTHER TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS "RECOGNIZE" THE DIFFERENT NEEDS OF OTHER CEMA MEMBER STATES AND THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT OBJECT TO "TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS" BETWEEN THOSE STATES AND THE EC AS SUCH AFTER CONCLUSION OF AN "UMBRELLA" EC-CEMA AGREEMENT. MASLEN MENTIONED THAT, IN THIS VEIN, THE ROMANIANS HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING AN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY ONCE AN EC-CEMA AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED. HINTON

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